



In the claims:

Claims 1-42 (cancelled).

43. (new) A method to assess the ability of a test compound to increase bone density comprising:  
administering to an animal a test compound which decreases the binding of osteoprotegerin  
binding protein (OPGbp) to ODAR;

measuring the bone density of the animal; and

determining that the bone density of the animal is increased in presence of the test compound.

44. (new) A method to assess the ability of a test compound to decrease bone resorption  
comprising:

administering to an animal a test compound which decreases the binding of OPGbp to ODAR;

measuring bone resorption in the animal; and

determining that bone resorption is decreased in the presence of the test compound.

45. (new) The method of Claim 43 or 44 wherein the test compound binds to OPGbp and  
decreases the binding of OPGbp to ODAR.

46. (new) The method of Claim 43 or 44 wherein the test compound binds to ODAR and  
decreases the binding of OPGbp to ODAR.

47. (new) The method of Claim 43 or 44 wherein the test compound is an antibody or fragment  
thereof.

48. (new) The method of Claim 47 wherein the test compound is an antibody or fragment thereof  
which binds OPGbp.

49. (new) The method of Claim 47 wherein the test compound is an antibody or fragment thereof  
which binds OPGbp.

OPGbp.

51. (new) The method of Claim 43 or 44 wherein the test compound is derived from human ODAR.

52. (new) The method of Claim 43 or 44 wherein the test compound comprises part or all of the extracellular domain of human ODAR.

53. (new) The method of Claim 43 or 44 wherein the test compound comprises part or all of the extracellular domain of human OPGbp.

54. (new) The method of Claim 43 or 44 wherein OPGbp comprises the amino acid sequence from residues 1 to 317 inclusive as shown in SEQ ID NO:3 or a fragment thereof.